AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 31–32, cancel Claims 21–30, and add Claims 38–44 as follows. In the below amendments, strikethrough (e.g., ~~strikethrough~~) or double brackets (e.g., [[double brackets]]) indicate deleted subject matter, and underlining (e.g., underlining) indicates added subject matter. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Withdrawn**) A device for reshaping a cardiac valve (26), said device being elongate and having such dimensions as to be insertable into a cardiac vessel (24) and having two states, in a first state (K) of which the device has a shape that is adaptable to the shape of the vessel (24), and to the second state (K') of which the device is transferable from said first state (K), said device comprising

a fixing means (22,23;22a,23a) for fixing the ends of the device within the vessel (24), when the device is first positioned therein,

a shape-changing member (20;20a) for transferring the device to the second state (K') by reshaping it, and

a delay means (21;21a) for delaying said reshaping until the fixing of the ends of the device has been reinforced, wherein said delay means delays said reshaping by keeping said device in said first state (K) until the delay means (21;21a) is resorbed.

2. (**Withdrawn**) The device according to claim 1, wherein said delay means (21;21a) comprises a resorbable sheath being arranged to enclose said shape-changing member.

3. (**Withdrawn**) The device according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means (22,23;22a,23a) is arranged to expand against a wall of the vessel (24) when first positioned therein.

4. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means (22,23;22a,23a) is arranged to grow into a wall of the vessel (24), whereby said fixing of the ends of the device is reinforced.

5. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means (22,23;22a,23a) comprises a hook means, by means of which said fixing of the ends of the device is reinforced.

6. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said fixing means (22,23;22a,23a) comprises a self-expandable stent at each end of the device.

7. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said shape-changing member (20;20a) comprises a shape memory material providing said reshaping of the device.

8. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 7, wherein said shape-changing member (20;20a) comprises Nitinol providing said reshaping of the device.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said reshaping of the device comprises shortening of the device.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 1, wherein said device is used for treatment of mitral annulus dilatation.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 10, wherein said vessel (24) is the coronary sinus.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The device according to claim 11, wherein said reshaping of the device is used for reducing the radius of curvature of the coronary sinus.

13. **(Withdrawn)** A method for reshaping a cardiac valve (26), comprising the steps of

inserting an elongate device into a cardiac vessel (24),

fixing the ends of the device within the vessel (24), reinforcing said fixing of the ends of the device,

reshaping the device, and

delaying said reshaping by a delay means (21;21a) so that the step of reinforcing said fixing is performed before the step of reshaping the device.

14. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 13, wherein said step of reinforcing said fixing comprises providing growth of the ends of said device into the wall of the vessel (24).

15. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 13, wherein a shape memory material is used in the device for said step of reshaping the device.

16. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 15, wherein Nitinol is used in the device for said step of reshaping the device.

17. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 13, wherein said step of reshaping the device comprises the step of shortening the device.

18. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 13, wherein the method is used for treatment of mitral annulus dilatation.

19. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 18, wherein said device is inserted into the coronary sinus in the vicinity of the posterior leaflet of the mitral valve.

20. (**Withdrawn**) The method according to claim 19, wherein said reshaping is used for reducing the curvature of the coronary sinus and thereby reducing the radius of circumference of the mitral valve annulus.

21. (**Cancelled**)

22. (**Cancelled**)

23. (**Cancelled**)

24. (**Cancelled**)

25. (**Cancelled**)

26. (**Cancelled**)

27. (**Cancelled**)

28. (**Cancelled**)

29. (**Cancelled**)

30. (**Cancelled**)

31. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus for applying a compressive load on body tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a catheter having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending therethrough;

a balloon affixed to the catheter, the balloon being in fluid communication with the lumen and having contracted and deployed states, wherein the balloon comprises a predetermined shape in the deployed state; and

a stent having contracted and deployed states, wherein the stent is plastically deformable by the balloon and substantially conforms to the predetermined shape of the balloon in the deployed state, wherein the stent is configured to apply a compressive load on surrounding body tissue when in the deployed state; ~~and~~

wherein, in the deployed state, the balloon is maintained in the predetermined shape, at least in part, by an anchor element extending along a surface of the balloon ~~an anchor element along a surface of the balloon and configured to maintain the shape of the balloon in the deployed state~~.

32. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the balloon comprises a curved shape in the deployed state.

33. (**Previously Presented**) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the anchor element is disposed within the balloon.

34. (**Withdrawn**) An apparatus for treating mitral annulus dilatation, the apparatus comprising:

a proximal ball segment comprising a proximal ball having a lumen, a distal ball having a lumen, and a hollow rod extending therebetween;

a distal ball segment comprising a proximal ball having a lumen, a distal ball having a lumen, and a hollow rod extending therebetween; and

a connecting segment disposed therebetween, the connecting segment having a plurality of sockets, wherein the distal ball of the proximal ball segment and the proximal ball of the distal ball segment are configured to telescope and rotate relative to one another within the sockets.

35. (**Withdrawn**) The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising a plurality of interlocking segments coupled to the proximal and distal ball segments, wherein each interlocking segment comprises a proximal section having a socket, a distal section having a ball and a lumen extending therethrough, and a hollow central section extending therebetween.

36. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising a cinch wire having proximal and distal ends and a ball coupled to the distal end, wherein the cinch wire is configured to extend longitudinally through the lumens of the proximal and distal ball segments.

37. **(Withdrawn)** The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising a push rod configured to engage a proximal ball segment.

38. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 31, wherein, when the balloon is in the deployed state, the anchor element is curved along the surface of the balloon.

39. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 31, wherein, when the balloon is in the contracted state, the anchor element is substantially straight along the surface of the balloon.

40. **(New)** An apparatus for applying a compressive load on body tissue, the apparatus comprising:

a elongate delivery member having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending therethrough;

a balloon affixed to the elongate delivery member, the balloon being in fluid communication with the lumen and having contracted and deployed states, wherein the balloon comprises a predetermined shape in the deployed state; and

an elongate member having first and second states, wherein the elongate member is plastically deformed from the first state to the second state by the balloon when the balloon changes from the contracted state to the deployed state;

wherein the elongate member substantially conforms to a surface of the balloon in the deployed state, wherein the elongate member is configured to apply a compressive load on adjacent body tissue when in the second state;

wherein, in the deployed state, the balloon is maintained in the predetermined shape, at least in part, by an anchor element extending along a surface of the balloon.

41. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the balloon comprises a curved shape in the deployed state.

42. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the anchor element is disposed within the balloon.

43. **(New)** The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, when the balloon is in the deployed state, the anchor element is curved along the surface of the balloon.

44. (**New**) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, when the balloon is in the contracted state, the anchor element is substantially straight along the surface of the balloon.